

Samar, Bataan governors suspended for alleged corruption

No GMA-Obama meeting scheduled in US

Luis Manzano excited about working with mom

4 families show how dogs can teach kids and parents

Laura gives Michelle tips on how to survive in the White House

Senate orders De la Paz arrest; he's not in town

By Tarra Quinsanda and Christine O. Anandale

THE SENATE FINALLY ISSUED AN ARREST ORDER for Fileno de la Paz, the arrested Philippine National Police (PNP) congressional aide with a large "conspiracy line" at the Moscow international airport early last month.

But he was out of town visiting relatives.

De la Paz's lawyer, Noel Malaya, received the order last night from Justice Department, state leader of the

SENATE A1



Wednesday, November 12, 2008

Manila / Vol. 32 / No. 340 P18

BAND OF BROTHERS

A Filipino veteran making his way through the memorial office at the American Cemetery in Fort Bonifacio cannot but feel a special bond with the American servicemen who were killed in action in the Philippines during World War II and whose names are now inscribed in marble pillars. The United States observes Veterans Day today.

PHOTO BY JIMMY L. LEE

Senate, House wrangle over Bolante's case

By Christine O. Anandale and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE CHAIR OF THE SENATE BLUE ribbon committee is not inclined to yield to the House of Representatives for first crack at questioning Justice "Doc" Bolante on the P28-million bid to build a new terminal at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano yesterday said the former agriculture secretary's "continuity in power" was "no excuse" to the Senate. He also said the House inquiry scheduled for today could lead to new measures—Bolante could be held for contempt and end

SENATE A1

CEOs see recession in '09

Drop in sales, bankruptcies sweep globe

SINGAPORE—EVIDENCE OF A WEAKENING economy in China, rising bankruptcies in Japan, business confidence slumping in Australia and retail sales plunging in Britain reinforced fears of a prolonged global recession on Tuesday.

Investor optimism over China's 330-billion dollar stimulus package also edged up in the face of dismal US corporate news including additional layoffs, a major bankruptcy filing, the agony of the once-mighty US auto industry and a record \$29-billion quarterly loss by mortgage giant Freddie Mac.

A fresh wave of gloom gripped equity markets as investors, already spooked by reports about the weakening outlook for US companies rising from Goldman Sachs to Starbucks, sold shares in Japan, Australia and

CEOs A1

Cooking gas cut by P66 per 11-kg cylinder

By Abigail L. Ho

HEARDING CALLS TO CUT PRICES BY A substantial amount, oil firms slashed cooking gas prices by P66 per 11-kilo-gram cylinder.

Pilgrimage Shell Petroleum Corp., Petron Corp. and Tandu (Philippines) Corp. all implemented the price reduction at 12:01 a.m. today.

Petron also reduced under the price of its natural gas, or liquefied

COOKING A1



Rice thief stopped in tracks; lost too heavy for fast getaway

By Beverly T. Natividad

DON'T CARRY A HEAVY LOAD LIKE a sack of rice if you have to make a quick escape.

A suspected thief suddenly learned this lesson yesterday.

With a 56-kilogram sack of "Sinu-dang" in his back, the suspect was

WGS A1



HIST STOP: THE OVAL OFFICE On his way to his hometown Jan. 20 evening, US President-elect Barack Obama holds his first face-to-face talks with President Bush on Monday at the Oval Office, where US presidents hold office in the White House and make world-changing decisions. PHOTO BY JIMMY L. LEE

Obama makes historic visit to the Oval Office

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT-ELECT Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, took their first presidential White House tour Monday, officially setting in motion America's historic transfer of power from one president to the next.

President George W. Bush and first

lady Laura Bush greeted the Obamas, who arrived 11 minutes early on a sunny fall day with moderate temperatures and colorful—but falling—autumn leaves.

The Obamas stayed in their family home for just under two hours, with

Michelle Obama touring the executive mansion with the current first lady and the president-elect meeting with Bush in their first face-to-face meeting.

Neither Bush nor Obama spoke to reporters. Bush walked Obama to a waiting black limousine as he left the

executive mansion.

On their arrival, the Obamas stepped out of the limousine to a welcome from the Bushes who were standing outside the diplomatic entrance to the White House to escort his next residents into

OBAMA PHOTO A2

Jojo Binay wants to do an Obama

By Allison W. Lopez

JOJO BINAY IS EMBARKING ON AN AUDACIOUS journey from the "Republic of Misaki" to the Republic of the Philippines as the country's very own "Jojo Binay"—much like US President-elect Barack Obama.

Working to turn the nation around as he did in Misaki City as his longtime mayor, Binay proudly declared his intention to run for the presidency, calling for a "nation's revolution" in 2010 through change in leadership.

More than 2,000 supporters, some trucked in from the provinces, cheered Binay as he read "Obama of the Philip-

PHOTO BY JIMMY L. LEE



"JOJOBINAY" Long-entrenched Misaki City Mayor Jojo Binay greets a crowd during his 64th birthday on Tuesday at City Hall. PHOTO BY JIMMY L. LEE

Poll says 20% of adult Pinoy have diabetes

By Dora Pazibaguan

ONE OUT OF EVERY FIVE ADULT PINOY is diabetic, according to the latest national survey on the prevalence of the disease.

And compared to a decade ago, more Filipino children may now be at risk of contracting diabetes due to the growing rates of childhood obesity.

PHOTO A1

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Correction

IN THE NOV 30 EMBLE, the editorial, "Globe and the Supreme"—intimated the name of a former Chief Justice who was appointed to the Supreme Court by Ferdinand Marcos. The Chief Justice's name is **Enrique M. Mendoza**—not Claudio M. Mendoza. It.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors to the Inquirer, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 9th Building, Corner Shaw and Alvarado Streets, Pasay City, Tel. No. 887-41-41, 887-4616; e-mail: adigital@inquirer.com.ph.
Comments about lack of balance or objectivity may be sent to the Publisher, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 9th Building, Corner Shaw and Alvarado Streets, Pasay City, Tel. No. 887-41-41, 887-4616; e-mail: adigital@inquirer.com.ph.

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RP tanker hijacked off Somalia

By Jerome Aning

A PHILIPPINE OIL TANKER, BOWEN WITH AN 80,000-ton capacity, was hijacked off the coast of Somalia last Monday, the Philippine embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, reported Monday.

"No crew members are reportedly missing," the OPA is coordinating with the ship's portland on efforts to ensure the safety of all hands of the vessel and crew," said Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Embilio Cordero.

The tanker has turned an urgent warning to

ships to take more measures to their presence while sailing in the waters of the Gulf of Aden.

"The tanker is protected but with passage is not 100 percent guaranteed. The portland cannot be anywhere at the same time. The ship must not maintain a strict radio watch for pirates," said Cordero.

He said many ships have managed to fend off pirate attacks after seeking help from coalition forces.

Monday's incident brought the number of attacks this year to the 20th in the Gulf of Aden, with 33 ships hijacked. Closing eyes 12 minutes in the hands of pirates along with more than 200 crew members.

The attack comes despite increased international cooperation to crack down on pirates in the Gulf of Aden.

Several pirates have been caught on ships plying the Gulf of Aden, which connects the

Red Sea and Indian Ocean. On Oct. 7, a British tanker, the *Albatross*, was hijacked off the coast of Somalia and taken to the portland.

Several countries, such as Britain, India, French Kenya and Malaysia, as well as the United States, have sent warships to the area to hunt down pirates. The coalition forces have lost off the Somali coast.

US spokesman Charles Duane said a total of 80 Filipino, including the *Albatross*, are being held captive by the pirates.

"The *Albatross*, which was hijacked last September, had the largest contingent of Filipino sailors being held captive in 26, Cordero said.

The 80 said pirates have taken hostage 381 crew members, kidnapped sailors, and killed another nine. Seven are reported missing and presumed dead. With AP

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Biometrics too costly for polls

COMPLEX, CHAIR JOB, MILDLY IT IS COMPLEX, the poll would use biometric screening in the 2010 election to become the technology is too expensive.

But the Committee might be able to use another method to the registration of voters, which means the use of a

"Biometrics is easy to use in gathering answers and check marks which are their second and third. So how do you use that?" There will have to be some matching and then screening, "he said.

He said he would rather not use biometrics for the money to buy biometric machines right now because they are already being hit hard by automated elections (ACR).

The Committee is prioritizing the machine that will be used in the 2010 national and provincial elections, he said.

But if Congress is willing to test biometric screening, the said the Committee would

strongly oppose a pilot program in a few cities. Biometrics is the most expensive method in scanning and analyzing voter help that is not accurate and matching those against information stored in a data bank.

The Committee has already rejected the arguments and check marks of about half of the 44 million population of voters in the country.

With biometric machines, the poll body would be able to screen voters at the entrance to polling places to ensure against multiple voting.

Biometric screening groups have been asking the Committee to use biometric screening to help guarantee the integrity of the election process.

The United Nations Council for Human Rights, for instance, has said biometric screening would ensure that there are no "flying voters" and proxy voting.

But the Committee has already rejected the arguments and check marks of about half of the 44 million population of voters in the country.

Family planning failure added to poverty in RP, says UP economist

By Edmar C. Tanaka Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE to make family planning—both natural and artificial—available to the poor worsened the poverty in the country, an economist from the University of the Philippines said Monday.

If only the country had followed the example of nearby Thailand which was able to lower its population growth rate between 1970 and 2000, four million Filipinos would have "escaped poverty," said Dr. Anandaraman.

The Committee is prioritizing the machine that will be used in the 2010 national and provincial elections, he said.

"The government's failure to make family planning available to the poor worsened the poverty in the country, an economist from the University of the Philippines said Monday.

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Lawmakers cool to bid to hike deposit insurance

REGULATIONS ARE moving away from President Municipal Azeiteiro's position that the deposit insurance coverage be increased to P1 million to shield consumers from bank closures arising from the global financial crisis.

The emerging consensus at the House of Representatives' hearings and financial interests committee is that the common

Rep. Timothy Wirth (D-Colo.) says the plan may even be a source of worry instead of reassurance to the public.

"They destroy the image of stability that is well-served by sending out the signal that we need a rescue package," he said.

The committee held a hearing yesterday on two House bills proposing to raise the deposit insurance coverage established by the now-closed Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. to \$100,000 and amend the FDIC's charter.

The FOMC is backing the President's position that the economy should be

increased to 14 million for those years.

Lucas said the President's proposal was a "kiss-jerk (cussing)" to the global financial crisis when she stood by more confident about the solid banking industry which she believed better about

"She should seriously feel confident about her own achievement. Because she did it, she satisfied the system," he added.

Rep. Charles Stenholm said banks should be required to plug up through a risk-based rating system on which the payment of deposit insurance premiums would be based.

Business leaders would pay a higher premium, so that they would be encouraged to improve the way they do business.

FDIC President
John M. Hughes agrees
with Rodriguez's
proposal in princi-
ple, noting that it
was the position of
other countries.

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The poster features a header with four circular icons representing different countries: Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. Below these is the title 'GLOBAL EDUCATION ALTERNATIVES 2008' in large, bold, white letters. Underneath the title is the subtitle 'A Commonwealth of Choices'. The main body of the poster contains text about the exhibition, a list of participating organizations, and a section for free admission. At the bottom, there are flags for the four countries and logos for the organizing bodies: IDP, Canada, Trade & Investment, and the British Council. The Intel logo is also present, along with a note about Intel LAPTOPs being raffled. The background of the poster is a dark, textured image of a globe.

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'Quinta' lingers off RP, brings rains; no storm signals raised

By Nicole M. Smith

TROPICAL DEPRESSION "GUSTO" MAINTAINED its strength while bringing rains to Luzon as it continued its venture into the country, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said.

Medical Services Administration (Papers) and
examined.

In a bulletin issued early morning yesterday, PAGASA said Quinsay was spotted 435 km away from Cebu, Palawan with maximum winds of 50 km per hour. It forecast to move south-southwest.

at 35 days post-birth

It is expected to be 27C in west of Puerto Princesa City by Wednesday morning and 40C in west of the same city by Thursday morning.

Papaya did not raise any public storm among signals anywhere in the country.

Noli: Greed to blame for world crisis

By Lawrence Sanders

VICE PRESIDENT SONJI DE CATTIIS HAS authored the global trends of financial risks and climate change to good and has called for multilateral multilateral.

Addressing last week's fourth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF-4) in Nanjing, China, the Centre, who is also chair of the Housing and Urban Development Council, said: 'Human greed... the race to go beyond previous income records, in the pursuit of overwhelming capabilities of human institutions, caused the over-indebtedness of the major financial markets in the world.'

In the area of climate change, the "likelihood of finding a market for a multitude of goods and services... send signals to producers that consumers are willing to buy more and more," he said.

"This, in turn, pushes industrial producers to grow at a rate that our planet can no longer support. So we consume more resources and burn more fuel. With an equally certain conclusion, the protective layer of our planet, geologically speaking," the Vice President stated.

He cited several deaccessioning projects in the Philippines that have adopted modernism, not used, in dealing with climate change.

The project is in Benguet, identified as among the 22 provinces in the country susceptible to natural hazards and one of the up-five provinces susceptible to rainfall-induced landslides.

Another project involves disease surveillance and emergency response in climate change-related conditions which will be implemented in Mexico, Manila and the province of Albany. These areas have been identified as prone to climate-change related diseases such as malaria, dengue, typhoid fever and shistosoma.

A third problem is in Norwegian City, an emerging coastal city in one of the most vulnerable provinces in the country. It aims to help human settlements in coastal municipalities cope with climate change or minimize its negative effects.

De Caceres said the program "was implemented within the limits of commercial. The models are neither too inflexible on the market nor on government institutions and there is extensive consultation with the people."



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The advertisement features a large, stylized logo for "PAL ECONO Light CLASS" set against a background of a blue sky with white clouds. The logo is circular, with "PAL" in small grey letters at the top, "ECONO" in large blue letters in the middle, and "Light CLASS" in yellow and grey script at the bottom. A red brushstroke-like line forms the outer circle of the logo. In the top left corner, a red diagonal banner contains the text "PAL ECONO Light CLASS" in white. Below the logo, there are several lines of small, illegible text, likely detailing flight routes and fares. At the bottom right, the Philippine Airlines logo and name are visible.

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Across the NATION

Read us your favorite papers to keep up with the news in 2008 (Editor: 1101 Market Street, 26th Floor, Manila, Philippines 10001)

Samar, Bataan gov's suspended

THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT yesterday enforced orders to suspend the governors of Samar and Bataan, both facing prosecution for alleged corruption.

DILG officials several months to suspend Milagros Tan, former governor, for alleged corruption. The anti-graft court has previously ordered her suspended as a consequence case against her government.

Two provinces
The two provinces of Samar and Bataan are the only provinces in the Philippines that have been suspended.

The two provinces were suspended for alleged corruption. The suspension was ordered by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) on November 11, 2008.

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PART OF THE FAMILY
A dog gets attention in the middle of passengers waiting home for the observance of All Saints Day and All Souls Day in Cebu.

Farmers set up camp vs aerial spraying

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—After warning the province of the Court of Appeals office here and clearing themselves to the building entrance, farmers protesting for the banning of aerial pesticide spraying in Cagayan have decided to hold camp outside the CA building.

The farmers said the camp was set up to pressure the CA to stop the aerial spraying. The farmers said the camp was set up to pressure the CA to stop the aerial spraying.

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Protestant bishop says Church also to blame for corruption

MANILA (GMA)—A Protestant bishop said the Catholic Church should also be blamed for corruption. The bishop said the Catholic Church should also be blamed for corruption.

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METRO

Editor: Raul G. Diogenes

Tel: (632) 8626-1111; Fax: (632) 8626-1112; Email: metro@metro.com.ph



Cops to check cars with gov't plates

NCRPO order prompted by rash of heists involving vehicles with red plates

By Marlon Flores and Julie M. Sambo

A DAY AFTER AN ARMORED VAN WAS ROBBED ON THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City, National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Director Jefferson Soriano yesterday ordered his men to conduct a random check of vehicles with government plates.

Sgt. Ramon Alibado, NCRPO spokesperson, said Soriano issued the directive to all police units in the metropolis following the involvement of vehicles carrying red license plates in at least five robberies in the past weeks.

From now on, government vehicles will be checked randomly at police checkpoints for verification as a precautionary measure, Alibado said.

In Monday's incident, the six men who robbed the armored

van on the UP campus escaped on board a blue Mitsubishi Adventure (MPV) 4000. Found inside the van, which was abandoned in front of a nearby building, were several sets of

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500	50	50

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Roach: No 'weighty' issues for Pacman

By Brandon T. Gehl

EVEN AS MAINTAINING IS ON a diet plan that his handlers hope will minimize Oscar De La Hoya's advantage, the Filipino slugger's training will include that speed will matter more when the "Devastator" between the two fighters takes place on Dec. 5 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

"The difference is you're weighing in under 160, bigger than me," he said.

speed wins the fight," American trainer Freddie Roach told Michael (The Destroyer) Thomas, who is expected to fight Roach on a diet with a lot of protein to keep his weight adjusted.

Roach said, "They're about the same weight in camp. His body fat is a percent and his weight is really good."

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Adamson, UST rip V-League foes

By Colleen P. Lopez

ADAMSON RANGERS IN AN EFFORT to beat the UST Growl in the V-League Finals, the team is looking for a straight victory that earned the Lady Blue a national berth in the UST Growl.

Often overlooked because of the team's lack of star power, the Lady Blue is actually an up-and-coming team, as evidenced by its record in the UST Growl.

"We had been the key for us," said Adamson coach John Pineda, who has led the team to several titles.

Adamson's success in the V-League Finals is a testament to the team's hard work and dedication.

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Macapagal eyes more proactive POC

By Rex Lopez

A VIGILANT AND PROACTIVE FILIPINO Olympic Committee chairman is looking for the Philippine Sports Commission and the National Olympic Committee.

"We have a real challenge in front of us," said Macapagal, who has been in the POC since 2002.

Macapagal's vision for the POC is to be a more proactive organization that works closely with the Philippine Sports Commission and the National Olympic Committee.

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COMMENTARY

Johnson's sage advice to Pacquiao: Be yourself

By Percy D. Dels

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA—WILL EVER LET an American boxer win a world title? That's the question that has been asked since the late 19th century.

"There is a real challenge in front of us," said Macapagal, who has been in the POC since 2002.

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Victory taken away from our gallant girls

By Rex Lopez

THEY ARE THE GALLANT GIRLS who have taken away the victory from our girls.

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PHOTOGRAPH BY [Name]

Final Nat'l 'Bakbakan' elims expected to lure record field

ROCKY PALMARES, PRESIDENT OF THE National Federation of Basketball (NFB), announced yesterday the estimated attendance for the 2006 National Basketball League (NBL) Finals.

Palmares said that the Finals are expected to attract a record number of fans, with an estimated attendance of over 100,000.

Longshots rule UGBA Heritage Cup derby

ACTING AT THE SAN JUAN DERRETO HERITAGE CUP derby, longshots rule the UGBA Heritage Cup derby.

The derby was held at the San Juan Derretto Heritage Cup derby, where longshots rule.

SPORTS

Wrestlers, coaches complain to PSC on Piccio harassment

By Jose Narvaro

AFRAID OF LOSING THEIR SLICES of livelihood, athletes and coaches from the Wrestling Association of the Philippines sought the help of the Philippine Sports Commission after wrestling coach Oscar Piccio threatened to evict them out of the national center.

AP coaches Jerry Pangasinan and Rust Piccio finally lodged the complaint to PSC chair William Ramirez,

who brought up the protest to the PSC board yesterday and promised to resolve the issue in 10 days.

In their letter supported by 18 out of 22 national members and six out of nine coaches, Pangasinan said Piccio had been harassing athletes coach Melchor Ramirez and preventing some of the wrestlers to take their training.

Piccio said the harassment began after the federation's national council evicted Piccio and unanimously voted for Just Abel to take over the helm during WAP's Sept. 28 election.

"If we feel that Piccio has abused his position, we will submit our own report for revoking," said Ramirez.

Piccio denied the charges but insisted writing a letter asking Ramirez to explain in writing why the national council should not be reinstated.

"Administratively he is not reinstated to the tenure of the

organization."

Such structures have created difficulty and prejudice to public sector and disciplines within the organization," said Ramirez.

Instead of answering Piccio, Ramirez explained his plight to Ramirez, asking the federation to begin with the release of national coaches, including Ramirez, who clearly supports Abel's bid.

"This completely ignores what Mr. Piccio has accused me of doing," said Ramirez in a letter.

Air21 rails at junking of protest

By Hwang K. Castillo

AIR21 TEAM MANAGER LITO AGABRIEL WARNED YESTERDAY that countermeasures toward "toxic" behavior have been heard if the team is not given a fair hearing.

Agabriel said he is ready to submit the protest to the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) if the team is not given a fair hearing.



SLA Lito Agabriel's Air21 team protects the ball against two Red Bull players during their match on Sunday. SLA team, 82-80.

"I tried to explain to (PSC) that we are not a toxic team," Agabriel said. "We are a team that is trying to win the game, and the more we win, the more we are being treated as a toxic team." Agabriel said he is ready to submit the protest to the PSC and the POC if the team is not given a fair hearing.

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Monzones captures Cadet 60 karat crown

DOUGLAS SMITH

Monzones captured the 60-karat title by sweeping all his three opponents in the final round of the 2008 World Judo Cup Karate 60 kg event in the Philippines.

The nine-year-old Monzones, a third grader, and coach, coach of the La Salle College, captured the title by sweeping all his three opponents in the final round of the 2008 World Judo Cup Karate 60 kg event in the Philippines.



JAZZ Monzones captures his 60-karat title in the final round of the 2008 World Judo Cup Karate 60 kg event in the Philippines.

Monzones captured the 60-karat title by sweeping all his three opponents in the final round of the 2008 World Judo Cup Karate 60 kg event in the Philippines.

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STYLING QUIOCHO USED HIS POWER TO win the Stallion Cup in the 24-hour event. He won the Stallion Cup by defeating Malarayat in the final round.

Quiocho won the Stallion Cup by defeating Malarayat in the final round.

PhilCycling GA Dec. 13

THE PHILIPPINE CYCLING ASSOCIATION (PCA) will hold its 2008 Philippine Cycling Championships (PCC) on December 13 at the Philippine Sports Complex (PSC).

The PCC will feature various cycling events, including the 100km time trial, 100km road race, and 100km mountain bike race.

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1001-1005.

Cut rates, BSP urged

By Michelle Y. Bano

THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of Singapore has recommended that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas cut its key policy rate to help spur the economy.

BSF said in its bi-weekly discussion paper to the Philippine Monetary Board that a lower monetary policy would be a welcome development for the economy, especially as the BSP had already met the bank's reserve requirements.

"It now remains to be seen if the current bank will follow up with an interest rate cut, which we think would be helpful in providing further support to the real economy," BSF said.

The BSP's key policy rate stood at 5 percent for borrowing and it goes up for lending. The central bank did not change the rate during the Monetary Board's policy meeting last month after multiple meetings a series of rate hikes from June to September.

The Monetary Board is scheduled to meet again on Nov. 20.

Plants attract 4 firms

By Miguel L. Ito

FOUR INVESTORS have expressed interest in acquiring the L&L Amusement (MPL) Group and 23-MPL. Bored about fixed power plant policies, which the Sheng Sheng Amusement Facilities Management Corp. signed in 2007 today.

According to P&L, all four bidders vying for the plants were local companies.

Riding on the power-rich plant was launched in July 2007 after the group's initial entry in the market to buy the facilities.

If successfully acquired, P&L would already go beyond its 70 percent participation target for the time with the current privatization level of the National Power Corp.'s Luzon and Visayas divisions in 2010.

However, if P&L decides this exercise a failure, the government could consider an interest on negotiated bidding as P&L had already tried to acquire it in 2007.

The July 16 auction for the plant was declined a bid as when only one bidder showed up.

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Notice is hereby given that on February 13, 2008, the Board of Directors of **Orvalo Asia, Inc.**, the representative offices of Orvalo LLC, approved the filing of the "Petition for Withdrawal of License as a Foreign Corporation" with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) which was to be effective April 1, 2008.

The Representative Office requests that all persons and organizations who have claims against it present them immediately by letter to the corporation at:

Orvalo Asia, Inc.
 4th Floor Avenir Building
 No. 45, Jupiter corner Main Street
 Barangay Bel-Air, Makati City

All claims must include the name and address of the claimant; the amount claimed; the basis for the claim; and the date (s) on which the event (s) on which the claim is based occurred.

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*Application submitted by the Office of the President and all insurance requirements as of October 25 will be processed for the member benefit. Claims covered will be subject to the applicable benefit conditions.

Business

Farm sector growth to slow to 4%, UA&P says

By Amy R. Reyes

THE GROWTH IN FARM OUTPUT may likely slow down this year to nearly 4 percent, due largely to the increase in the cost of farm inputs, according to economists.

"It is uncertain that it may be less than last year's growth," said Isabela De Guzman, director of the Center for Food and Agribusiness at the University of the Philippines.

Last year, the farm sector grew 4.68 percent, continuing

Expensive fertilizer, typhoons taking toll on production

from the previous year's 3.85 percent, despite a dry spell, leading to the growth of several key subsectors such as crops and fisheries, Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said early this year. But 2008 farm growth would range between 4.5 and 5.5 percent.

Yap admitted last month, however, that the farm sector growth may not hit the high end of the target (5.5 percent), and

instead, may be anywhere between 5.2 and 5 percent.

"They are still projecting 4.5 percent, but I think we may have to go back to the low end of the scale," Yap said, pointing to an increase.

On explained the country may be seeing this year the adverse effects of the high cost of farm inputs, particularly fertilizers. The cost of this input had more than doubled this

year to 70,000 a bag compared to lower prices last year.

The Department of Agriculture earlier reported that the high cost of fertilizers had led to a 10 percent drop in the use of this input, thus affecting output.

"The farm growth this year might be lower because last year, the cost of farm inputs weren't as high as they are now. Also, commodity prices were more robust last year and the

economy was OK," Yap added.

On top of the high cost of inputs, Yap also cited the lingering effects of water diseases, which hit backyard hog farms in Luzon last year. Also, the Bureau of Animal Industry reported that the government may likely miss its 2008

target of 10 percent growth in the farm sector, as the government may likely miss its 2008

production target for poultry and swine, which together account for about 25 percent of farm output.

But last year, the country's production for 2008 was expected to only 1.08 percent to 1.49 percent, which is lower than the year-ago level of 16.34 percent.

Meanwhile, crop production is expected to hit 4.95 percent, or 5.5 percent higher than last year's output of 4.74 percent. But that is short of the revised target of 7 percent.

BOI approves new projects worth P684M

By Rizaquil L. Ito

THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS HAS GIVEN its nod to five infrastructure and export projects, which will generate P684.6 million in new investments and 1,107 jobs.

The bulk of the approved investments, at P254.7 million, will come from Minicor International Company (Investment Services Inc.), a new joint venture between the Philippine Investment Bank and Minicor International.

The wholly owned subsidiary of International Commercial Services (ICS) Inc. is expected to employ 150 people when it starts commercial operation in January next year.

The company will approve the 250,000 TEL (Twenty-four Hour) Express Mail Service, which would provide a 24-hour courier service to the Philippine Investment Bank.

The BOI also approved three more housing projects in Cebu and Pangasinan, the biggest of which was that of 1000 Housing Development Corp., which involved an investment of P104 million.

Another low-cost mass housing project that got BOI approval was that of 1000 Housing Development Corp., which would provide 1,000 low-cost housing units for 70 families in Cebu and Pangasinan.

The BOI likewise approved the P81.6 million mass housing project of 1000 Housing Development Corp. in Cebu, which would provide 100 units.

Bay View Farm Corp., an exporter of the agri-food, organic fertilizer and animal products, got BOI approval for its P79.1 million investment.

British firm drops venture

ANGLO AMERICAN PHILIPPINES HOLDINGS has pulled out of the Kalayaan copper-gold joint venture due partly to rising costs from local government taxes, according to its local partner Manila Mining Corp. In a decision to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Manila Mining said it wholly owned subsidiary, Kalayaan Copper-Gold Resources Inc., has been notified that Anglo would terminate the Joint Venture Agreement dated March 20, 2007 covering the exploration of the Kalayaan project in Benguet and Itogay.

"Anglo-owned considerable efforts to ensure community development relations as it is concerned problems in securing critical as well as to continue from local government and residents," Manila Mining said.

The agreement between the two mining firms had provided that Anglo would fund the pre-feasibility phase of the Kalayaan project worth P20 million in exchange for a 49 percent equity in the project.

If Anglo were to proceed with the final feasibility phase worth another P20 million, it would acquire another 20 percent in Manila Mining's subsidiary, giving it a majority stake in Kalayaan Copper-Gold.

The Kalayaan project is held under an open-pit permit, covering some 280 hectares in Benguet and Itogay.

The mining firm added that Anglo was preparing a feasibility study which, together with all other data that had been accumulated over the last 18 months, would be handed over to Manila Mining.

Anglo has spent P10.02 million on the Kalayaan project and was also able to drill 11 holes for the project with an aggregate depth of over 6,200 meters.

The exploration permit over the Kalayaan project is valid until January 2009, renewable for another two years. Manila Mining said its subsidiary will "continue the work program for the Kalayaan."

Amy R. Reyes

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LIFESTYLE *Home & Entertaining*

Editor Thaddeus Simpson San Juan

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How to light your condo for mood and space

Do it the way
a lighting designer
would a dance
or play

by Hays C. Swenson

MANY HOMEOWNERS AND developers are now paying attention to lighting design and its ability to transform space. With various techniques and light fixtures, lighting can enhance architecture, illuminate a work area or light up a social setting.

Minneapolis-based young interior design firm Parsons Apleton is growing and light up a 75-sq-ft new hardware combination at One McKinley, Nashville, Tenn. City

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Conference on green design initiatives

THE IM SUPERMALLS RECENTLY HELD a conference on Sustainability, Energy and Green Design Initiatives at the IME Convention Center, Specialized by the IM Supermall's Executive Committee, the conference discussed how green design initiatives can influence sustainability and promote environmental preservation, especially in relation to multi-operations.

Architectural Firm member, president (architect) of MUSEO and head of Green Movement of the Green Architecture Movement, spoke about the definition of Green Architecture and Sustainable Design.

Architect's firm Ignacio, architect head of the College of Architecture of the University of the Philippines, gave an overview of Green Architecture: Culture, Tradition, and Materials.

Architect's firm Ignacio spoke about Landscape Architecture and how this is important to sustainable design.

Architect's firm Ignacio spoke about the importance of sustainable design.



IM PHASE Holdings president Ramon B. B. and IME president Ramon B. B. with IME president Ramon B. B. and IME president Ramon B. B. during the Sustainability, Energy and Green Design Conference.

Insights—such, windows, and roofs, which are the first line of defense or boundary that separate the interior from the exterior.

Architect Robert L. Woodhead gave the audience guidelines on what to look out for in downtown Home Center's New Building. The conference is one of the many ways the IM Supermall helps promote environmental awareness.

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THE CONSUMER Linda E. Bickel

What questions to ask the information hotline

JUST WHEEDLING OF INFORMATION CAN you get from IME PLDT 303-8117?

Reaching to last week's column, Bickel C. Lopez, customer care president for small voice range of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT), never to explain what the service was all about and what questions customers could ask, there is the list of information available to others at 303-8117.

Free local delivery hotline; directory entries and public advisory; news (breaking news, sports news, latest results); design (change rates; weather forecast and forecast time; search time schedule; daily updates; live-updates; inspirational events and special resources (PLDT promo, press releases, events, Media and Goto happenings, shopping basket list, sales and products and school days); entertainment (show list, movie schedule, television schedule, index); top five travel destinations; via information; Philippine passport and embassy information; travel agencies; transportation and accommodations; travel tips and calendar of holidays; home and lifestyle (city beauty and wellness); and around the house (tips around the house, planting services, electrical services, appliance service centers and car maintenance).

I encourage readers to try dialing the number and give us feedback on how informative it is. I can put it on to PLDT. Only by giving feedback can we make sure the service is as efficient as we want it to be. I will certainly try the number again one of these days to see if the information listed above can really be obtained through the hotline.

In his letter, Lopez also explained that the number 303, which the operator at 303-8117 told me is not, "actually goes you in touch with PLDT directory assistance, which is a completely different customer service."

Lopez said "ask PLDT 303-8117 is an 'on-demand' voice service with advanced voice recognition capabilities, while IME directory inquiry is operated by 'live' agents who provide the telephone numbers of various residential and business establishments." But here he had me confused because the person who took my call when I dialed 303-8117 was "live" and she suggested I called IME. May be the machine wasn't broken when I called. This certainly gives me more reason to try the hotline again—and soon.

For pickup

As for the phone dialing, Lopez means agents themselves to just go to the PLDT office nearest to them and pick them up when they answer their service line. That may be a problem for people like me who live far from the PLDT office, as I pay my bills through phone banking. I have many people who pay through Royal Centers and other payment facilities (mainly because they want to avoid the hassle of going to PLDT office).

On this same topic, somebody from Director Philippines Corporation, publisher of the PLDT phone book, called to say they had the directory delivered to PLDT subscribers who lived in rural areas. I saw one of the subscribers who whose apartment is next to a main road, the whole I asked a village who lives on a main road in Mandaluyong City she said they always had their directory picked up, even without any notification from PLDT, because they would not get their directory.

It would be interesting to hear from other PLDT subscribers who actually had their phone books delivered.

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How to light your condo for mood and space



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Page 12

lighting designer (Shane Blumstein), well-known for her functional lighting.

Typical of a condo-to-rent, the color scheme is neutral, with accents of black and white. The furniture includes a rug and a rug. The furniture is neutral—lots of neutral colors, splashes, but big drapes to block the sunlight, and for contrast, the stone of the balcony to line the balcony.

In the bedroom with floating shelves, drapes and under-bed storage is added to block. For the day, an accent wall is added to the room that is a green. The space is comfortably furnished with a sofa bed and an accent chair (which is a sofa bed).

The place is filled with artwork by Mike Brown, Marcel Antonio, Fred Langman, Marisa Gailley and Michael Garcia. For a touch of red, Agustin uses the cover of an Ang Bicolok book as a substitute for painting drapes.

At night, the condo becomes more interesting as the designer uses a variety of light sources to create a comfortable glow.

Again, conceptualizing the lighting design, the way a lighting designer would light up a play or a dance, she imagines the various activities and lighting needs.

For the general area, she uses ambient lighting sources to welcome visitors, including accent lighting to enhance artwork. The general ambient illumination is a warm and cozy.

To create mood in the dining area, track lights not only draw the eye to the focal point—Eggy Fernandez's artwork—but also draw attention to central illumination. The light from above is balanced by an uplight in the floor.



ACCENT TASK LIGHTING ON PAINTING. A fan artwork is usually lit by a source facing its surface at a 30-degree angle. This removes the glare from bouncing into the viewer's eye, and creates a strong sense of depth of the piece onto the painting.

The day has layer lighting for all activities, such as a desk lamp for working and pin lights for mood.

To create drama in the bedroom, no-overhead lighting is used to avoid a harsh glow. Instead, a narrow beam of downlight can focus the bedroom and creates a floating effect. A strong pendant lamp creates intimacy in a bedroom corner, while the table and shelf areas are gently illuminated by pin lights.

"Space is created with the lighting. I wanted to give the space some depth," says Agustin.



ACCENT LIGHTING: A pendant light and accent drapes as a track light and adds textured character.



DECORATIVE PENDANT LIGHTING. Decorative pendants used in multiple areas to light up long surfaces such as a table or a display.

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ACCENT UPLIGHTING. In general, accent lighting creates high contrast on objects and creates focal points. Uplights, when positioned beneath a large object, create striking patterns on the walls and ceiling.

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Should you get your kid a dog?



Arilla and Hiram Barbas with Chubby dog adopted "Lulu"

By Aya & Hiram
Contributor

WE'VE SEEN IT IN DEADLY SCENES—the little boy with the big, gentle, bearded dog nuzzling with him through the security fence when he's called, and parents the child from harm. The fact is, it can happen, but there are many things the world doesn't show you. Like when you pick up the dog's poop, or when he walks or barks like, or what happens when he's scared or when you're alone with him.

That's what it's important to know that a pet is not just something to bring home, catch, and put away in a cage, but a responsibility. Like I always tell kids who want pets, if you own something, you have to be responsible for it," says social worker in Nilesen, Ontario. "But the parent also has to be getting the pet for the right reasons. It's a living thing, not an object." With due diligence and the right attitude in a child and his parents, a pet can be an ideal

companion for a pregnant, and can help make a child more responsible, honest, and loving. Take it from these parents who count animals as part of their bond, with their kids becoming better people because of it.

Growing up with animals

In the older child of a famous veterinarian, David Lipton, a 12-year-old high school freshman at La Salle Greenhill, grew up in a variable way. That's because aside from com-

What about the parents?

You'll have to live with the animal, too. What to think about before getting that doggie in the window

• **ANSWER HOW YOU FEEL about an animal.** If you're just looking for a pet but actually have getting dog hair on the sofa, there's a problem. "Many parents will buy a pet for their kid on impulse, without realizing what it takes care of it," says veterinarian Hiram Barbas. "But the fact is, parents will still play a big part in everything." So be ready...

and get over it. Because the dog is a pet, you're living with it, even though the rest of a pet is about up to you.

• **Say yes or no for the right reasons.** "Many parents say 'no' because they're afraid of the dog."

WHAT ABOUT US

Aspartame is Permitted Food Additive

The Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) of the Department of Health lists aspartame as one of the permissible food additives as per Bureau Circular No. 2, s. 2007 (Subject: Updated List of Food Additives) in accordance with the corresponding level of use.

What is aspartame? It is a high intensity sweetener used in food and beverages to replace the sweetness of sugar but without the calories.

In a letter, the BFAD references the evaluations of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and the Codex Alimentarius Commission on the safety of aspartame. Furthermore, the letter of BFAD stated "The alleged connection between aspartame and cancer has been answered by some experts who made their own studies like the European Union Scientific Committee for Food (SCF) and the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)."



Aspartame is safe. It was approved for use 27 years ago and its sweetness is being enjoyed today by over 2 million people. It has been proven safe by many international food and health agencies including those mentioned above, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the US National Cancer Institute (NCI), to name a few.

In fact, if you read labels you will find out that aspartame can be found in as much as 6,000 different food and beverage products including chewing gum, gelatins, dessert mixes, puddings and fillings, frozen desserts, yogurt, tabletop sweeteners, and some pharmaceuticals like vitamins and sugar-free cough drops.

Continuous tests have been done on aspartame safety for more than two decades—and it has passed all of them. "Aspartame has been extensively studied in animals and humans... In 1981, when the FDA first approved aspartame, it noted: 'Few compounds have withstood such detailed testing and repeated, close scrutiny, and the process through which aspartame has gone should provide the public with additional confidence of its safety.' FDA has affirmed the safety of aspartame 26 times over a period of 23 years (www.aspartame.org, 2006)."

There are 100 countries all over the world which use aspartame. These countries all have their own food and health standards which have allowed the use of aspartame.

The bottomline of all this is that **aspartame is safe** for consumption. Period.

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From page 88



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